

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## BUREAU OF FISHERIES

REPORT OF WILLIAM N. DEAN, SPECIAL WARDEN.SEASON OF 1925.

September 15, 1925. Left Ketchikan at 8.00 a.m. for Skowl Arm to examine creeks. Strong wind and heavy sea running, crossing Clarence Straits. Had to run at half speed. Arrived at Skowl Arm Cannery at 3.15 p.m. Wind getting stronger. We tied up at cannery.

September 16, 1925. Left cannery at 7.30 a.m. for Paul Young Creek. The Superintendent of cannery went with us. Arrived and anchored close to mouth of stream. Fish showing everywhere. Walked up stream about a mile and saw (the dead and decaying) fish lying around thick, as far as we went. At a conservative estimate I should judge there are Seventy-Five Thousand fish in and around the mouth of stream at the present time, about ninety percent of which are humpbacks and the rest are Dog Salmon. Left here and went to head of McKenzie Inlet to Omar Creek. There were not many fish around mouth of creek, but as we followed up stream, quite a few fish were ascending, and some thousands of fish were dead and decaying, and lying around the banks of stream. There fish were about eighty per cent Dogs and the rest Humpbacks. Picked up anchor and left for Old Franks Creek. This creek at its head consists of a series of lakes; and we were informed that it is a very good Red Salmon Stream earlier in the year. Around the mouth and for a distance up stream there were about 2,000 fish, most of them badly decayed, about seventy-five percent Dogs and the rest Humpbacks. We dropped Mr. Harding at cannery at about 3.00 p.m. and proceeded to Chomley Sound and tied up at cannery at 6.15 p.m.

September 17, 1925. Left cannery for West Arm. Went ashore at head of Arm and walked over to stream. There were about fifteen hundred, or two thousand fish playing around the mouth of stream, most of them being Humpbacks. As we proceeded up stream, decayed fish were lying around thick. Some fish were making their way up stream, most of them pretty badly discolored. A smaller stream close to portage had some fish in it, but very little water. On returning towards sound we met about one dozen seine boats in and around Chomly. Superintendent Bailey informed us that he was not buying any more Humpbacks and turned a boat with a load away while we were there. The Dog Salmon being used at the cannery were discolored, but he said they were solid. Left Chomly and proceeded to Moir Sound, up to the head of North Arm. Dropped anchor about 100 yards from mouth of stream. There were fish everywhere around the mouth of stream. There was lots of water and probably twenty or thirty thousand fish around mouth of stream. Walked up sides of stream and saw dead and decaying fish, thick, all over. About ninety per cent of these were Humpbacks and the rest Dogs. This stream has more fish in sight than any we have visited. We returned and tied up at cannery at 6.30 p.m., at North Arm. Saw Superintendent, who told us he would close in about four days. Every container around the cannery was full of fish, besides a loaded scow, and he was turning fish away. He said he would not take any more Humpbacks.

September 18, 1925. Left North Arm at 7.10 a.m. and proceeded over to West Arm. There was a scow there anchored opposite Keegan Creek, buying fish for Chomly. Scow was about half loaded with Dog Salmon, badly discolored. Between here and the markers at Frederick Cove I counted 17 seine boats. Went to head of Frederick Cove and took skiff to river. There were not many fish around mouth, but lots of dead and decayed fish

were lying around the bed of stream for quite a distance up stream, most of which were Humpbacks. Went back from here to East of Sound, to Johnson Cove. A family of natives were camped here, smoking fish.

Went up stream, and there were twenty or twenty-five thousand fish playing around mouth of stream, some trying to ascend but there was not enough water to take them very far upstream. Went up stream for a considerable distance and the fish were thick all the way up, about seventy percent of which were humpbacks and the rest Dog Salmon. This was one of the best streams we have visited. (Note that in my inspection of these streams around the mouths, or in the lakes or streams, which we have examined, I have not seen one bright colored fresh run fish.

Returned to Ketchikan at 5.20 p.m.

September 21, 1925. Attended Court this morning, Mahoney and Kettles fish trap case. Had lights fixed on boat and left for Chomley Sound at 4.00 p.m. Very fine evening. Arrived at cannery at 8.00 p.m.

September 22, 1925. Looked around cannery at Chomly this morning. Quite a few fish around and they are a little brighter looking than the last lot. These were all Dog Salmon. Left at 9.30 a.m. for Moira Sound. Very fine morning. Arrived at North Arm Cannery and saw Mr. Collinson, who said he had bought all the fish he wanted and would close next day. Left here and cruised around the sound. About ten seine boats were operating in and around sound. Scow was buying fish for Chomly. Not getting many fish at this time. There are quite a few boats around, but none are getting many fish. Went over to Fredericks Cove and looked around. Then went to head of Dickman Bay and anchored close to mouth of stream at 7.15 p.m.

September 23, 1925. <sup>(West Arm)</sup> Dickman Bay, 7.15 a.m. Very fine morning. Took skiff and went over to stream. Not much water in stream, about an average of thirty feet wide at low tide. Followed up stream considerable distance.

Stream is full of fish, about 80 per cent of which are Dog Salmon and the rest Humpbacks. Came back and went up the stream heading more towards the North. Many fish there, but not much water. Not many fish around mouth of stream, so probably most all of the fish get in the stream earlier. Left Dickman Bay and cruised around sound amongst seine boats. Very few fish being caught. Most of the seine boats cruising around looking for fish left here for the head of South Arm. Arrived at 5 p.m. and anchored.

September 24, 1925. At 7.50 a.m. Very fine morning. Took skiff and went over to stream. Good stream, averaging about 507 yards wide for a mile, or approximately that width and length. It is one of the greatest fish streams we have visited at any time. There were a few fish around mouth of stream, but dead and decayed fish lying around in thousands. We went a considerable distance up stream and as far as we went the fish were just as thick. There seemed to be no end to them, most of which were Dog Salmon. We left here and went over on the West side to a stream about three miles from this one, but very few fish were around and not many in stream. Left here and went over to Keegan Creek. Some natives were camped here curing fish. Went up stream for some distance. Quite a number of fish in stream. Very few fish around mouth of stream. These were Dog Salmon and Humpbacks, about equal amount. Left and crossed over sound. Very fine day but strong North wind and heavy sea running outside in Straits. Turned into North Arm and tied up at cannery at 3.30 p.m. Saw the Superintendent, Mr. Collinson. Cannery closed, except putting the place in order for Spring. Twenty-five thousand cases of a pack. Quite a few seine boats tied up around the cannery. Said they could not find any fish and it was too rough for seine.

September 25, 1925. Left Starr Collinson Cannery at 7.45 a.m. for Chomly Sound. Very fine morning. Strong North wind and rough sea. Tied up at

Chomley. Saw Superintendent Bailey, who said that the most seining would be done from now on in and around Chomly. Just got some fish from several seine boats and they are quite a little brighter looking than those I saw some days ago. These are all Dog Salmon. Bailey said he had put up, to this time, 85,000 cases; and that he was going to operate until the 15th of October. Seine boats tied up at cannery, as it was too rough to fish and not many fish were around. Saw Mr. Payne at Chomley, of Kubley and Payne, who are operating Pile Trap P 418, East shore of Prince of Wales. He said he was going to cut spillers off tomorrow and quit.

September 26, 1925. Many seine boats left this morning for Ketchikan, as there were no fish around. Very fine morning. Went to head of South Arm. No fish in sight and no boats. Returned and went to head of Dora Bay. Anchored and took skiff over to river. Very little water in river, at low tide. Followed along the stream up to lake. The poorest showing of any stream we have visited on this side. No fish at the mouth. A few hundred fish in stream in different places. Very few dead or decayed fish lying around. A large log jam at entrance to lake, which from all indications must have been here for years, as the logs are all overgrown with moss and brush, and it is impossible for any fish to enter the lake under these circumstances. From the small amount of decayed fish lying around the stream, I concluded that there has never been a large run of fish to this stream this season. Returned from Dora Bay and cruised around awhile in the sound then returned to Chomly and tied up at 5 p.m.